Women Make History

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Suggested Age Group: 5th Grade

Lessons/Themes: Abolition, Women's Suffrage

Topic Overview:
This lesson plan serves as an introduction to the lives of three major figures of Women’s history: Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Mary Stafford Anthony. It includes an overview of their lives and social impacts in spheres of abolition, women’s suffrage and equal rights. Activities include short answer and fill in the blank questions to emphasize reading comprehension, promote discussion and creative thinking. Final activity includes a “Women Are” craft, that allows students to creatively decide on their own empowering adjectives to fill in the blank “Women are ______ .” The activities introduce students to important vocabulary surrounding the discussion of equal rights, and opens discussion of what modern equality and equity might look like.

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Women Make History

Susan B Anthony
Mary Stafford Anthony
Harriet Tubman

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Lesson Overview/Needed materials

1. Harriet Tubman Lesson Plan
2. Watch Video
   a. Susan B. Anthony Materials (if can not play video)
3. Mary Stafford Anthony Reading
4. Questions that follow along
5. Start “We Are” poster as a group
6. Decorate button activity

Other materials: Example Button
Teachers Pay Teachers - Link to Susan B anthony Lesson Material

Who Was Mary Stafford Anthony?

Mary Stafford Anthony was born in 1827 in Battenville, NY. She was raised by her Mother Lucy Reed Anthony and her father. She had 3 sisters and 2 brothers. She received most of her education from the school in their home that was created by their father where his kids and kids in the neighborhood attended.

At the age of 17 she became a teacher, just as her sister Susan was. 6 years later she moved to Rochester, NY where she helped on the farm, studied and did chores around the house and later returned to teaching and became a principal. It was at this school where she worked as a principal that she demanded equal pay to a man. This demand for equality in pay was very unusual at that time.

Mary remained “in the shadow of her famous older sister” Susan B Anthony. Though in the shadow of her sister, she was a dedicated suffrage activist as well. “She attended the Adjourned Convention in Rochester of the First Woman's Rights Convention and, together with her father and mother, signed the Declaration of Sentiments” (Mary Stafford Anthony).

In November of 1872, she voted in the presidential election. 6 years later “she acted as a Monroe County delegate when the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) held its convention in Rochester, New York, to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the first woman’s rights convention” (Mary Stafford Anthony).

During the mid-1880s Anthony took part in organizing and creating the Women’s Political Club at her house, where women got together. The women gathered in December 1885 and 3 months later became an organization. Mary Stafford Anthony was elected president of this club for 11 years.

“In 1893, Mary Anthony was elected corresponding secretary for the New York State Woman Suffrage Association (NYSWSA). That same year, the state’s suffragists decided to mount an all-out campaign to obtain the vote for New York's women. The Anthony home became a campaign headquarters” (Mary Stafford Anthony). At her house for the next almost 10 years she sent thousands of letters, blank petitions, suffrage papers etc.. for no pay, because she declined a salary.

She lived to be 79 and continued her work as a suffragist until her death.

“…until we can establish equality between men and women we shall never realize the full development of which manhood and womanhood are capable.” - Mary Stafford Anthony

1. List 3 or more jobs/titles Mary Stafford Anthony had?

2. Explain a time when Mary Stafford Anthony fought for equal rights for women and how she did it.

3. Where did Mary Stafford Anthony do a lot of her suffragist work?

4. Who was she always “in the shadow of”?

5. In your own words, what do you think the quote at the end of the reading means...
Harriet Tubman

1. After reading about and completing the work on Mary Stafford Anthony, explain that they will learn about another woman who was a change maker. Her name was Harriet Tubman. She helped slaves make their way to freedom.

2. Watch the video The Life of Harriet Tubman for Kids https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTbY8QjoINl

3. Discuss similarities between Harriet Tubman and Mary Stafford Anthony and how they both helped make change. What did they do that was the same? How were they both leaders?

4. Show students the “We Are” poster. Discuss the meaning of some of the words that they see.

5. Ask students to select one word (on the poster or another one they may think of) to complete the sentence below.

6. Have a group discussion, asking students to share a sentence with the frame, “We are ______ because________________.” Share those ideas in a group.

7. After selecting their word, they will make two identical “Women Are” buttons with the word they selected.

8. After the buttons are made, they will find a partner. They will share the word they created and give their partner one copy of the button they made and they will receive one from their partner. Each will partner will wear their buttons.
WE ARE...

Women
Helpful
Leaders
Persistent
Strong
Determined
Motivated
Fighters
Pioneers
Supportive
Heroic
Courageous

because...

Women Fighters ARE